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Bewölkungsverhältnisse und Sonnenscheindauer von Nordamerika. Von Arthur Gläser. 63 pp. Diagrams. *Archiv der Deutschen Seewarte,* Vol. 35, 1912, No. 1. Hamburg, 1912. Mk. 4.50. 12 x 9½.

Teisserenc de Bort (1884), Greely (1891) and K. McR. Clark (1911) studied and charted the cloudiness of the United States. In two cases (Greely and Clark) we have had monthly as well as annual isonephs. Now comes a new publication by Arthur Gläser, prepared as an "Inaugural-Dissertation" at the University of Leipzig, in which we have by far the most complete discussion of the cloudiness and sunshine of North America which has yet been attempted. All available material has been drawn upon; the data have been subjected to critical comparison, and an unusually large number of charts and diagrams has been prepared. Thus, under cloudiness, we have charts showing the monthly, seasonal and annual isonephs; annual variation; seasons of maximum and minimum cloudiness, and diagrams of isopleths for longitudes 80°, 90°, 100° and 110° west, and latitudes 32°, 40° and 47° north, as well as for the west and east coasts. The accompanying discussion is unusually complete, and takes up the causes of the variations in cloudiness, as well as the facts of variation. Our only comment on these excellent charts would be that it might perhaps have been wiser to omit a good many of the local isonephs in cases where the area concerned is small. Recorded amounts of cloudiness depend to so considerable an extent upon the personal equation of the observers, and the possibility of drawing these local isonephs is determined in so many cases by the fact that there happens to be a station in that particular locality, that to include the smaller details seems to us to give a less accurate rather than a clearer and more accurate view of the actual distribution of cloudiness.

Sunshine in North America has received even less attention in the past than cloudiness, for the reason, doubtless, that the data are far less complete, and are also more recent. Van Bebber's chart (1896) is well known because of its having been included in Bartholomew's *Atlas of Meteorology.* Dr. Gläser has given us charts showing the mean hourly duration of sunshine for each month and for the year; monthly isohels (per cent.) and the annual variation in these percentages; seasons of maximum and minimum cloudiness; mean duration of sunshine in hours of the day for each month; daily march of sunshine for summer, winter and the year, and still other charts. In addition, diagrams showing the distribution of sunshine, by means of isopleths, for the same latitudes and longitudes as in the case of cloudiness, are included.

The mere enumeration of these various charts and diagrams will serve to indicate the thoroughness with which the whole investigation has been carried out. Dr. Gläser has made one of the notable contributions to American climatology.

R. DeC. Ward.

An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions from Newfoundland to the Parallel of the Southern Boundary of Virginia, and from the Atlantic Ocean Westward to the 102d Meridian. By Nathaniel L. Britton and Addison Brown. 2nd edition, revised and enlarged. Vol. 1: Ferns to Buckwheat. xxix and 680 pp. Vol. 2: Amaranth to Polypremum. iv and 735 pp. Vol. 3: Gentian to Thistle. 637 pp. Index. Ills. in each. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1913. 11 x 7½.

Students of American plant geography, as well as other groups of botanical workers, will find the new edition of this well-known work very valuable, even indispensable in many cases. To the phytogeographer and the plant ecologist the book is especially well suited, serving them as a highly authoritative index and catalogue of the plant forms with which they have to deal. By the aid of line drawings which accompany each species description, the labor of plant identification is very greatly reduced, thus allowing the results of special taxonomic study to be employed with considerable readiness by non-taxonomic workers. This feature of the work before us has already proved itself in the first edition.

The geographical area embraced by this descriptive catalogue of native and naturalized ferns and seed-plants is given in the title. The whole of Nebraska is included. The notes upon distribution, however, frequently refer